

**ECOHEALTH and The Missing Links in the Middle East:  
Strengthening the Ecosystem Approaches  
to Human Health in the Middle East**  
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- III. A briefing sheet that accompanied initial communication.
- IV. The Institutional Identification Form that accompanied initial communication.
- V. List of identified institutions and individuals.

## Executive Summary

The aim of the consultancy was to identify a set of key institutions in Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Palestine, and Morocco that have the potential to conduct research in the field of Ecosystem Approaches to Human Health and to do a first analysis of their capacity. The methodology used in this study was based on responses to open-ended questions which were posed to established contacts via telecommunication. The methodology was also supplemented by some literature review and internet search. Getting contacted institutions or individuals to respond fully and in a timely fashion was difficult. This was compounded by the fact the Ecohealth is a new approach not readily understood, especially in the absence of face-to-face contact. Moreover, long-distance contact makes an informed assessment harder. Despite the challenges, this consultancy revealed that:

**A. *An ECOHEALTH approach does not exist in the Middle East but can be initiated with a sophisticated support package:***

This is not entirely new information. Yet, it is relevant because it became clear that links between health and environmental research are rarely studied or addressed. Education, funding, career options, institutional and even macro political imperatives preclude a serious accumulation of knowledge that links methodologies and findings in human health and ecosystem health. This situation will need to be addressed in future attempts to promote ECOHEALTH. Provision of funds is not sufficient by itself.

**B. *Expertise exists but needs boosting:***

Certain institutions were able to develop expertise in specific fields (e.g. water, reproductive health, participatory methodology, quantitative research); Combining approaches and methods, however, was another matter. Institutions seemed capable of conducting either environmental research or health research. The combination of quantitative and qualitative research was rare. Combining interdisciplinarity, participatory methodology, and gender perspective was equally rare. Institutions seemed incapable of complex intellectual combinations. In general, quantitative methods were more popular, more NGOs knew about or implemented participatory methodologies, a true sensitivity to social variables was slowly coming, and interdisciplinarity was seen as a largely unaffordable progressive notion. Funding, educational, training, time, and political imperatives were also seen to be influential factors.



**C. *Institutional links are virtually non-existent:***

On the national and regional levels, institutions seemed to operate in a collegial vacuum. This vacuum is caused by operating on a survival mode; by limited funding that fosters unhealthy competition; and by inequality in status between researchers, NGOs, universities and GOs in the region. Interest in networks and links exists. Fear of unethical copying of ideas, competing, lack of supportive systems, and loss of status are some of what undermines attempts to develop national or regional institutional links. Furthermore, the influence of fluctuations in national and regional politics on quality and effectiveness of institutional linkages cannot be ignored.

**D. *Secondary programmatic areas are neglected because of busyness with survival:***

The preoccupation of Institutions with survival makes the development of a strategic direction or exploring new intellectual ventures a luxury. Most institutions commented on the detrimental impacts of the brain drain, shortage of funds, fund-driven projects, political limitations, and conceptual challenges on their contribution to knowledge. Neglect of new emerging issues is, thus, not surprising. A code of ethics, sensitivity to social variables in Ecohealth and research plans were often given as examples of what is ignored because of busyness with basic institutional survival.

Following are some of the strategic options for consideration by IDRC-MERO:

***Networks:***

One of the most promising strategies is fostering existing links and promoting new ones. Networks, however, are not always a facile way of doing business. Funding and competition issues exist. In most cases it is not feasible to cooperate on small projects. It is also not feasible to go through the pains of networking for the sake of implementing one project, especially with a modest budget. Networks need an intellectual nurturing environment—something that is frequently reported to be absent.

***Partners:***

Certain types of partnerships exist. The commonest type is between local organizations and international organizations whereby international organizations provide funds and expertise. Additionally, NGO-GO partnerships are on the rise and so are university-GO partnerships. University-NGO partnerships are still lagging. These partnerships have created opportunities for advancement in

research and policy. Many local institutions need guidance and practical support to create effective partnerships since the majority lacks the vision and skills to initiate effective partnerships. Mediation of partnerships is a sensitive and necessary task.

### ***Conventional Projects:***

Most institutions obtain research funds on a project-to-project basis. Research funds in the Middle East are limited. The situation is compounded by chronic understaffing of and underfunding for most institutions. Additionally, most institutions revolve around one or two persons who are able to raise funds and provide leadership. Diversification of funding sources and areas of expertise requires institutions to have a solid structure, solid management, solid expertise, and multiple foci of excellence. For small or more localized institutions, the situation is usually hard. The situation is challenging in terms of the future of Ecohealth in the region. The information available tells us that a future funding strategy must be sensitive to the diversity in size and capacity of existing institutions.

### ***Research and Education:***

The most challenging aspect of doing research in the Middle East may be the formation of good researchers. The intertwining of research with graduate education cannot be escaped. Support in this direction could yield high level appreciation for research and researchers. Investment in education of researchers, however, must be carefully considered in order to avoid further alienation between traditional researchers and communities. The issue of formation of researchers is particularly relevant in terms of participatory methodologies and interdisciplinarity.

The prominent challenge is how to balance advances in research with the social realities that shape the research environment in the first place. One of these overarching realities is the thorny relation between research and the state in the region. How can the role of researchers be balanced vis. a vis. people? Is it possible to balance the role of universities vis. a vis. NGOs? Does research promote reconsideration of the role of governments vis. a vis. civil society? What will ECOHEALTH change in Middle Eastern Lives? Better environment? Better health? Better research? Better participation? Better civil society? Better social harmony? The answer will lie partially in IDRC-MERO preferred ECOHEALTH funding strategy.



Operationalizing any or all of the above strategies requires efforts on several fronts:

- I. Institutional assessment: Creative and sensitive ways of measuring institutional capacity are required.
- II. Programmatic focus: One of the questions facing MERO is related to the usefulness of refining the three main programmatic areas (agriculture, urban and mining) to reflect some more specific priorities in the region.
- III. Secondary foci: Some relevant issues have to be addressed to supplement the introduction of ECOHEALTH research framework.
- IV. Technical assistance: MERO may be faced with the question of whether funding alone is sufficient to reach the potentially good knowledge and betterment of the Ecohealth situation in the Middle East.
- V. Funding: Appropriate amounts and duration of funds may need to be considered for this PI in the MERO.
- VI. Evaluation criteria: ECOHEALTH will be a new framework in the Middle East. Evaluation of funded projects must take that into consideration.
- VII. Internal advocacy: Certain issues may need to be addressed inside IDRC, for example, as regards funding, strategic direction, and evaluation.
- VIII. External advocacy: Working with certain donor organizations, local institutions, and policy makers may be a necessity for IDRC-MERO.

**Next Steps:**

The following steps are suggested as a follow up to this consultancy:

- A. A mission to the region: The purpose will be to:
  1. Assess closer some of the identified institutions,
  2. Assess the capacity of some more institutions,
  3. Explore possible specific research priorities,
  4. Identify other relevant needs (e.g. capacity building),
  5. Examine the potential for networking and partnership,
  6. Identify secondary foci of programming,
  7. Build and strengthen relation between identified institutions and IDRC-MERO, and
  8. Respond to other IDRC requests.
- B. Formulation of funding strategy: The development of such a strategy could be an internal matter or a more collaborative process with (potential) local partners. This may be also linked to other local or regional scientific events. A short duration between this study and formulating a funding strategy is desirable.
- C. Dissemination of funding strategy information.
- D. Planning workshop with selected institutions.

### List of Abbreviations

AHED	Association for Health and Environmental Development-Egypt
AKH.Univ.	Al Akhawayn University-Morocco
Annajah	Al Najah National University, Nablus-Palestine
ARIJ	Applied Research Institute-Jerusalem
AUB	American University in Beirut
AUC	American University in Cairo
BU	Balamand University-Lebanon
CARE	CARE USA-Jordan
CDS	Center for Development Services-Egypt
CEDARE	Center for Environment and Development for Arab Region and Europe-Egypt
CEHA	Regional Centre for Environment and Health Activities, EMRO, WHO-Jordan
CIHRS	Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies
CNRS	<i>Centre National de Coordination et de Planification de Recherche Scientifique et Technologique-Morocco</i>
CNRF	<i>Centre National de la Recherche Forestière-Morocco</i>
EECA	Egyptian Environmental Care Association
EG	Egypt
EMRO	Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office-WHO
ENA	<i>Ecole Nationale d'Agriculture-Morocco</i>
ENFI	<i>Ecole Nationale Forestière d'Ingénieurs-Morocco</i>
EQI	Environmental Quality International-Egypt
EYDE	Egyptian Youth for Development and Environment Association-Egypt
FEA	Friends of Environment Association, Alexandria-Egypt.
FHG	Family Health Group-Jordan
FHS	Faculty of Health Sciences
FRSC	Future Research and Study Center-Cairo University
FSEJS	<i>la Faculte des sciences economiques, juridiques et sociales de Casablanca, Morocco</i>
GCEP	General Corporation for Environment Protection-Jordan
GreenCOM	USAID's The Environmental Education and Communication Project
HDIP	Health, Development, Information and Policy Institute
IAV	<i>Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II-Morocco</i>
IERS	Institute of Environment Research and Studies, Ain Shams University-Egypt.
INRA	<i>Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique-Morocco</i>
IPCH	Institute of Public and Community Health-Bir Zeit University, Palestine
I/PCRI	Israeli/Palestinian Center for Research and Information
IPM-GTZ	Integrated Pest Management Project, GTZ-Jordan



JES	Jordan Environment Society
JO	Jordan
JU-Med.	Jordan University-Department of Family and Community Medicine
JUST-Eng.	Jordan University of Science and Technology-Department of Engineering
JUST-Med.	Jordan University of Science and Technology-Department of Family Health and Community Medicine
LAU-Eng.	Faculty of Engineering, Lebanese American University-Lebanon
LB	Lebanon
LIFE	Local Initiative Facility for Urban Environment-Lebanon
METAP	Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Program-Lebanon
MO	Morocco
MOAg.-MO	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development-Morocco
MOE-LB	Ministry of Environment-Lebanon
MOEnv-MO	Ministry of Environment-Morocco
MOH-LB	Ministry of Health-Lebanon
NEF	Near East Foundation-Jordan
NEWS	National Environment and Wildlife Society-Jordan
NHF	Noor Al Hussein Foundation-Jordan
PAL	Palestine
PBWRC	Princess Basma Women's Resource Center-Jordan
PC	Population Council-North Africa and Western Asia Regional Office, Cairo
PEERC	Palestinian Energy and Environment Research Center
PHG	Palestinian Hydrology Group-Palestine
PRA	Participatory Rapid Appraisal
RSCN	Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature-Jordan
RSS	Royal Scientific Society-Jordan
SRC-AUC	Social Research Center, American University in Cairo-Egypt
Suez Univ.	Suez Canal University, Ismailia-Egypt
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency
UPMRC	Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees
WHO	World Health Organization

## Institutional Profile Charts

	Egypt	E E C A	S u e z U n i v	E M R O	E Q I	P C	C D S	E Y D E	S R C - A U C	I E R S	C I H R S	U N I C E F	F E A	G r e e n C O M	C E D A R E	A H E D
Contacted		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Response		✓	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X		✓	✓
GO		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NGO		✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Univ.		X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X
Other		X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X
Human Health Research		X	✓	?	X	✓	✓	X	✓	X	?	✓	?	X	X	✓
Env. Research		✓	?	?	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?	X	X	✓
Active ECOHEALTH		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Activism		✓	X	?	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	X	?	?	✓	✓
Env. Awareness		✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	?	?	?	✓	✓	✓
Env. or Health Projects		✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	?	X	✓	?	X	✓	✓
Teaching		X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	?	X	X	X
National		✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓
Regional		X	X	✓	?	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	?	✓	✓	?
Interdisciplinary		✓	?	?	?	✓	✓	X	✓	?	?	?	?	?	✓	✓
Gender		✓	?	?	?	✓	✓	X	✓	?	?	✓	?	?	?	✓
Participatory Approach		?	✓	?	?	X	✓	X	X	?	?	✓	?	?	X	X
Quant./Surveys		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	X	✓	✓
Qualitative		X	?	?	?	✓	✓	X	✓	?	?	✓	?	X	X	✓

	Egypt	E E C A	S u e z U n i v	E M R O	E Q I	P C	C D S	E Y D E	S R C - A U C	I E R S	C I H R S	U N I C E F	F E A	G r e e n C O M	C E D A R E	A H E D
Publications		✓	✓	✓	?	✓	X	X	✓	?	✓	✓	?	?	✓	✓
Dissemination		✓	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	?	✓	?	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓
website		X	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	X	✓	?	?	✓	?	✓	✓	X



	Palestine	H D I P	A n n a j a h	P H G	P E R C	I P C R I	A R I J	I P C H	U P M R C
Contacted		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Response		✓		X	X	✓	✓	✓	X
GO		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NGO		X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
Univ.		X	✓	X	X	X	X	✓	X
Other		✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Human Health Research		✓	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X
Env. Research		X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X
Active ECOHEALTH		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Activism		✓	X	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓
Env. Awareness		X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	?
Env. or Health Projects		✓	X	✓	✓	✓	?	X	✓
Teaching		X	✓	X	X	X	X	✓	X
National		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Regional		X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X
Interdisciplinary		✓	?	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	?
Gender		✓	?	✓	?	X	X	✓	✓
Participatory Approach		✓	?	?	X	✓	✓	X	?
Quant./Surveys		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?
Qualitative		✓	?	?	X	✓	✓	✓	?
Publications		✓	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Palestine	H D I P	A n a j a h	P H G	P E R C	I P C R I	A R I J	I P C H	U P M R C
Dissemination		✓	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓
website		✓	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	X

	Jordan	CARE-USA	JES	CEHA-WHO	NEF-JO	IPM-GTZ	PBWR	NHF	NEWS	JUST-Eng	JUST-Med	JU-Med	FHG	GreenCOM	RSCN	RSS
Contacted				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Response				X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			X
GO			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NGO		✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X
Univ.			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X	X
Other			X	✓	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Human Health Research			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X
Env. Research		✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	✓	✓
Active ECOHEALTH			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Activism			✓	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X
Env. Awareness		✓	✓	?	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓
Env. or Health Projects		✓	✓	?	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Teaching			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X	X
National		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Regional			X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X
Interdisciplinary		✓	?	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓	X	X	✓
Gender		✓	?	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?	✓	?	X	✓
Participatory Approach		✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	?	?	X	X	X	X	✓	X	✓
Quant./Surveys		?	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	✓
Qualitative		?	✓	?	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓	?	?	?

	Jordan	CARE-USA	JES	CEEHA-WHO	NEF-JO	IPM-GTZ	PBWRC	NHF	NEWS	JUST-Eng	JUST-Med	JU-Med	FHG	GreenCOM	RSCN	RSS
Publications		?	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	✓
Dissemination		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
website		?	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	?	X	✓	✓	✓



	Lebanon	M O E - L B	F H S - B U	L I F E	U N D P - L B	F H S - A U B	M O H - L B	L A U - E n g
Contacted		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Response		✓	X		✓	✓		✓
GO		✓	X	X	X	X	✓	X
NGO		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Univ.		X	✓	X	X	✓	X	✓
Other		X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X
Human Health Research		X	✓	X	X	✓	✓	X
Env. Research		✓	?	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Active ECOHEALTH		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Activism		X	X	✓	X	X	X	X
Env. Awareness		✓	X	✓	X	X	✓	X
Env. or Health Projects		✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	X
Teaching		X	✓	X	X	✓	X	✓
National		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Regional		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Interdisciplinary		X	?	?	?	✓	X	X
Gender		X	?	✓	?	X	X	X
Participatory Approach		X	X	✓	X	X	X	X
Quant./Surveys		✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓
Qualitative		X	?	?	X	X	X	X
Publications		✓	✓	?	?	✓	✓	✓

	Lebanon	M O E - L B	F H S - B U	L I F E	U N D P - L B	F H S - A U B	M O H - L B	L A U - E n g
Dissemination		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
website		?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Morocco	MOR Env. MO	INRA	ENRA	CNRF	CNFI	MOAG MO	IAV	UNDP -MO	CNRS	AKH Univ.	Green COM	FSE JS
Contacted		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓
Response		X	X	X	X	X	✓	X			✓		X
GO		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X
NGO		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Univ.		X	X	✓	X	✓	X	X	X	X	✓	X	✓
Other		X	✓	X	✓	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	✓	X
Human Health Research			X		X		X	X	X	X	X	?	
Env. Research			✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Active ECOHEALTH			X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Activism			X		X		X	X	X	X	X	✓	
Env. Awareness			X		✓		X	?	✓	X	X	✓	
Env. or Health Projects			✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	
Teaching			✓		X		X	✓	X	X	✓	X	
National			✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Regional			X		X		X	X	X	X	X	✓	
Interdisciplinary			✓		?		✓	✓	?	?	?	✓	
Gender			?		X		X	X	✓	?	X	✓	
Participatory Approach			✓		X		X	X	X	X	X	✓	
Quant./Surveys			✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Qualitative			✓		X		X	X	?	?	X	✓	

	Morocco	MOR Env MO	INRA	ENR A	CNRF	ENFI	MOA g MO	IAV	UNDP - MO	CNRS	AKH Univ	GRE nCOM	FSE JS
Publications			✓		✓		✓	✓	?	✓	✓	?	
Dissemination			✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
website			X		X		X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	



## **1. Framework:**

The present consultancy was conducted with the long term goal of developing an informed funding and assistance strategy for IDRC's Ecohealth Program Initiative in the Middle East. To this end, the objective of this study was to do a preliminary assessment of the current capacities of some of the existing institutions in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, and Palestine. This objective stemmed from the idea that IDRC's assistance will be most effective if informed by the current situation in these countries.

In implementing this consultancy, certain concepts were employed in the interaction with identified institutions. Early on, it became clear that institutions have their own culture where concepts imply different things sometimes. Interdisciplinarity, sensitivity to social variables, and participatory methods implied different meanings for different institutions. For the sake of being systematic, the following functional definitions were followed in this consultancy.<sup>1</sup>

### **1.1. Definitions:**

Interdisciplinarity: It is the joint work of a team of different disciplines. The members could be doctors, engineers, social scientists, communication specialists, and others, cooperating to reach a common goal. Ideally, the interdisciplinary team cooperates in all stages of work, is of mixed genders, and values the contribution of each member equally.

Gender Sensitivity: It is the ability of work teams to distinguish between the different needs of and impact of different situations on both men and women. This ability must also be translated into gender sensitive analysis and interventions. Gender differences also intersect with social differences making sensitivity to social variables even more crucial.

Participatory Methodologies: This is an approach to working with and for communities. The community is a stakeholder and plays an important role in different stages of work. Participation is valued for the outcome it can bring and as a humanizing process. The methodologies include multiple visual and verbal methods to facilitate the participation of local people: men, women, old, young, poor and rich.

ECOHEALTH: It is an approach that attempts to link human health with ecosystem health. People's health status and the status of ecosystem health are intimately related.

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<sup>1</sup> Naturally, other definitions exist for any of these concepts. The idea here was to use the same criteria for the study of identified institutions. These definitions are also meant to help the reader in interpreting the overall context and outcome of the study.

The idea is that neither exists in isolation of the other. They share a cause and effect type of relationship.

Environmental Sciences/Research: The term refers to studies, education, and institutions that focus on the composition, the degradation, the availability, and management of environmental resources (e.g. waste-water treatment, underground water, quality of water, preservation, soil erosion, food production). This is usually the domain of engineers, environmental scientists, and environmentalists. The domain usually lies within the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment.

Human Health Research/Sciences: The term refers to studies, education, and institutions that focus on different aspects of human health. The ecosystem may or may not figure here. This is usually the domain of doctors, allied health scientists, some social scientists, and human health advocates. The domain usually lies within the responsibility of the Ministry of Health.

## **1.2. Methodology:**

The methodology used in this study is based on responding to open-ended questions that are posed to identified individuals and institutions via telecommunication. The contacts were identified either through existing professional networks, referrals, or literature. This was also supplemented by in-depth interviews/communication with certain resource persons. The methodology was enriched by some literature review and internet search.

This consultancy was challenged by several factors which, undoubtedly, color the findings. More significantly, these challenges need to be taken into consideration for future studies and steps. The principal challenge was the difficulty of getting contacted institutions or individuals to respond fully and in a timely fashion.<sup>2</sup> This was compounded by the fact the Ecohealth is a new approach that is not readily understood especially in the absence of face-to-face contact. This was addressed by mailing information packages, telephone conversations, repeating questions in different ways, and sending verbal and written reminders.

The context in Middle East is very visual and personal. Face-to-face contact is the best approach to get anything done. This is especially true for the active institutions which, inevitably, seem to be understaffed and overworked. For some, writing in English or Arabic or French is hard; for some, they are so engaged in everyday work that new initiatives are an unaffordable luxury, for others they lack a plan and a vision. Moreover,

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<sup>2</sup> Responses are still coming in. A cut-off date, however, had to be set for writing this report.



long-distance contact makes it very hard to make an informed assessment because the information cannot be properly checked.

### **1.3. The Question:**

The posed questions focused on four main areas:

- A. The general identification of the institution/person,
- B. The programmatic information about the current and planned activities that are relevant for Ecohealth,
- C. The organizational information that was concerned with exploring the capacity of the organization, its staff, and affiliates to be engaged in Ecohealth research, and
- D. The external environment information that was concerned with exploring the readiness of the overall environment for Ecohealth research in the studies communities. (See appendix IV)

The communication also touched on the Ecohealth research priorities in these countries as seen from the eyes of the identified institutions and resource persons. The questions were mainly concerned with research capacity and priorities. It was not long before it was realized that the connotation of the links between human health and ecosystem health vary among institutions and individuals. Because of limitations of time and mode of communication, exploring the specific variations of these connotations and their implications were very hard. Some interesting observations, however, were still noted and they will be shared in the next chapter.

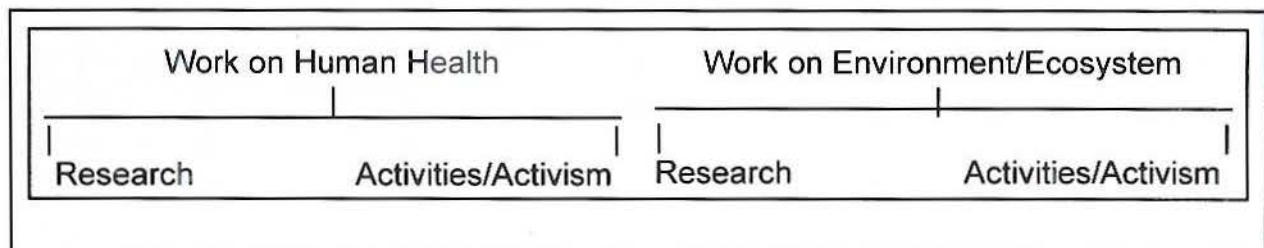
One of the striking, but not totally surprising, observations is that, in many cases the responses to the Institutional Identification Form were returned as if personal identification forms, thus, surfacing the issue of the hazy boundary between self and institution in the Middle East. This makes a stronger case for pursuing face-to-face contact and establishing personal rapport for such consultancies.

## 2. Current Situation:

### 2.1. Overview: Ecohealth Research and The Missing Link in the Middle East:

Given the quickly-realized independent paths of human health and ecosystem research in the region, it was helpful to start communicating with identified institutions about their particular existing strengths. It was thought that this will lead towards some understanding of the determinants of generating ECOHEALTH knowledge in the region. Spheres of expertise of most institutions were found but in isolation (e.g. water management, pesticide management, lead poisoning). Conceptually and practically, links between human health and ecosystem health were missing.

Through discussions, it was found that human health and ecosystem health are largely delinked spheres in knowledge production, programmatic activities, or research methodologies. These spheres intersect, overlap, or interact, but, mostly they are totally disconnected. The links between human health and ecosystem health were found to be more commonsensical than knowledge based. Systematic research or solid knowledge about the links are almost entirely absent. Thus, ECOHEALTH was non-existent as such. What existed is spheres with missing links.



#### 1. Spheres for Thought.

Human health and ecosystem health are inter-connected in multiple cause-effect relationships. In order for knowledge to be generated in this regard linkages in research questions and methodologies must be drawn. The foundation for these linkages is severely weakened by many factors in the region. Many of these factors will be explored in this report. In a sense, the report will discuss the current situation and shed light on some of the determinants for ECOHEALTH in the region.

Another serious challenge to ECOHEALTH is the existing intellectual and institutional gap between environmental activities and activism on the one hand and environmental research on the other. For example, NEWS, JES, RSCN, CEDARE, GreenCOM, and other organisms are known to be active in advocacy, awareness, training, and so on, but they all have in common a weakened research capacity. Environmental and health activities are as if rootless. Their roots in health sciences or ecosystem sciences are



divorced from each other. The branches (research, activities, activism) are, thus, divorced from each other too. Albeit common, this is not a universal picture. For example, CEHA-WHO attempts to work on relevant regional issues such as Environmental Health Impact Assessment, or environmental law. CEHA works mainly through seminars, developing and testing materials.<sup>3</sup> Yet, for CEHA, this line of activities is not combined with developing and testing research methodologies.<sup>4</sup> Other institutions with fewer intellectual and financial resources find it harder to provide this missing link. Some, like PC, AHED, IPM-GTZ, RSS, seem to be able to link research and activities with various degrees of effectiveness.<sup>5</sup>

AHED for example has been active for years in integrating a "grassroots level model." According to this model, the context of their health centers becomes the sphere of generating models and testing ideas. Their work on occupational safety and health, home environment, basic rights to access basic services of water and sanitation, and work on fishers, subsistence, and sustainability all feed into the efforts in advocacy, developing models of practice, and a future publication titled: "A Citizen's Report on the State of the Environment." This type of work brings many pressures on the resources of the organization. For example, they have been interested in staff training on participatory methodologies to complement their existing knowledge in interdisciplinarity and gender issues, but they haven't had the time or resources to pursue this interest.

Another reported missing link is in translating research into policies. Existing institutions saw this as one the most important challenges and frustrations. In some cases as in IPCH-Bir Zeit, JU-Med., FHG, FHS-AUB, working closely with government bodies was practiced as a means of sharing authority over policies and knowledge. The result is usually a more productive relaxed research environment but often with minute changes in policies or the lives of communities. It is crucial, therefore, not to separate the struggle for good quality and relevant research in the Middle East from the ongoing debate and tension between civil society and the state's organisms. A missing link

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<sup>3</sup> Healthy Cities and Healthy Villages and Environmentally Healthy School Initiative are also offered by CEHA.

<sup>4</sup> CEHA may provide seed funds and technical assistance for some applied research that promises to be a pilot for the region as, for example, studies on lead smelting, pesticides, water disinfection in households (previous personal communication).

<sup>5</sup> Some of these examples are too focused on a specific program (e.g., IPM) or a considerable expertise in other areas (e.g., PC's expertise in reproductive health). The point here is that such examples are few, especially in Ecohealth.



between research and policy exists copying the missing link between state and civil society.

In this chapter, the profile of institutions will be discussed shedding light on these missing links. Chapter Three will address the different strategic options for IDRC-MERO to build useful conceptual and institutional links. Chapter Four will be concerned with special areas of intervention that may be pursued to complement the proposed strategies in Chapter Three. Chapter Five will cover the overall conclusions of the study and summary of recommendations. Despite the negative implications of these missing links, the situation carries a great potential and hope for ECOHEALTH. ECOHEALTH has the potential to provide the means to test and may be turn commonsensical (and sometimes indigenous) thoughts into knowledge.

## **2.2. Context: Crises, Funding, and Entrepreneurship in Research:**

In the Middle East, the supply of Ecohealth relevant research is influenced by the urge and need to respond to crises caused by threats to livelihood, health, or environment. For example, the EYDE became involved in research on environmental problems at tourist sites in Sinai after the media reported several environmental disasters. Many environmental activists refer to the impact of seeing the burning oil fields of Kuwait in 1990-1991, or the destruction of the coral reef of the red sea in Egypt, or the pollution of drinking water in Amman last summer, or air pollution in Cairo and Lebanon,<sup>6</sup> the water conflict in Palestine,<sup>7</sup> sea pollution in Lebanon, or many other events (see Hopkins and Mehanna 1997, publications by ARIJ). In Jordan, JES has been planning for a study at the site of a large municipal landfill that has been causing many human health problems, triggered by the repeated complaints of residents and media coverage. In Lebanon, the UNDP is funding Waste Disposal studies because this is a government priority resulting from public discontent with the unsatisfactory conditions of waste disposal in many parts of Lebanon.

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<sup>6</sup> According to the Economist Intelligence Unit, Cairo has the world's highest lead-content level in its air (EIU 1998:23) and Lebanon is in the highest risk category for lead poisoning because of poor air quality (EIU 1999:12). Industries in Egypt are also credited with dumping "at least 10 tonnes of solid waste per minute [1% of which is hazardous], one third of which goes into uncontrolled landfills, canal banks and drains." (EIU 1998:23)

<sup>7</sup> The issue of the quality and quantity of water is so volatile in Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon and even Egypt. Most identified institutions working on the environment were working on one aspect or another of the water issue.



These studies and many others, however, aren't concerned with human health and even less with ecosystem health per se. Their popular angle is that of sound environmental management. This type of reactive studies, while responding to real and urgent priorities, is not matched with concern for investigating ECOHEALTH links. Furthermore, these studies are often seen as one-shot-in-the-arm studies with no continuity. Research is largely an isolated event and is not an effective tool for measuring and monitoring progress in the health status of people and the environment. Furthermore, it is not an effective tool for promoting popular participation in environmental management.

Ironically, environmental and health crises were beneficial for research. In the five countries, the research environment is more conducive than ever before to investigate Ecohealth matters. Crises have helped in raising awareness along with raising levels of frustrations. Because of good politics or good sense, the door is more open than ever before for institutions to use the ECOHEALTH approach.<sup>8</sup> Crises are helpful for policy makers and funding organizations. Crises help them to direct their resources. Al Qassass notes: "political support is necessary to put [environmental deterioration] cases high on the national agenda" (In Halim 1995:12).

Funding strategies can also be a very strong determinant of the nature and methodologies of research in the Middle East. Funding organizations almost always channel their funds through one designated institution to implement a specific project or activity. Lack of core funding and lack of a more sophisticated multi-party funding strategy means that institutions work in isolation and that they have less freedom to venture with other partners. This is compounded by the fact that funds for research in the Middle East are very modest even when compared to funds for development projects. Furthermore, because funds are limited and earmarked for certain activities with a certain timeframe, a sense of urgency and a sense of competition prevail making joint research rare indeed. This was the view expressed by CDS, IPCRI, AHED, NEF-JO, FHG, JU-Med. and others.

In addition to institutional links, funding influences research methodologies. Funding organizations in Jordan, Egypt and Palestine have encouraged and even in some cases demanded the use of participatory methodologies for needs assessment, evaluations, and research. Regardless of an agreement or disagreement with such actions, it is impossible to escape the fact that these methodologies are now more widely used, understood, and accepted. Approximately ten years ago funds for such methodologies was unavailable or not so assertive. The point here is that funding organizations have a

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<sup>8</sup> Naturally, opening doors for research or closing them is not separate from the contemporary issue of political liberalization in the region.

certain role to assume in shaping the production of knowledge in the Middle East. A leap in the current state of knowledge requires a leap in current funding strategies. But, to where?

The response of most identified institutions/individuals reflected a shift towards a more entrepreneurial atmosphere in the region even in research. The vast majority of the work of these institutions was linked to already existing funding agendas and protocols that, subtly, left little room for indigenous knowledge to be developed. Accordingly, and also influenced by the call for relevance of research to the community, sometimes the entrepreneurial spirit (survival, competition, status, politics, available funds) dictated research more than the needs of the people. The ultimate conclusion was the study of the environment but not health or health but not ecosystem health. The links are tenuous and the community is secondary.

Certain typologies were developed in order to summarize the findings from this consultancy. These typologies are a handy way to reflect the current situation as it relates to ECOHEALTH priorities. This is what we turn to next.

### **2.3. *Typology: Research and Development Activities in the Middle East:***

#### **The Active Type:**

In the Middle East, some universities are going through the pains of being relevant to the community (e.g. FHS-AUB, JUST-Med., Suez Univ.). Only a few are successful. Simultaneously, civil society institutions are going through the pains of doing what they need and want to do. Their challenge is setting an agenda (for research and activism) that is not overpowered by either the state or funding organizations. These tensions produce a picture where rarely is research linked to activism and even in a few cases it is linked to policy changes. Somehow, civil society has come to carry the onus of social change without much authority in the production of knowledge or of social policies in the Middle East. Their role, thus, is largely focused on environmental and health awareness (e.g. NEWS, JES, RSCN, EECA, EYDE). Some aim at promoting behavioral changes or even legal rights but, mostly, lack the original conceptual basis for this work. Awareness raising and activism were largely unlinked to production of knowledge (e.g. JES, RSCN, CEDARE).

#### **The Intellectual Type:**

On the other hand, not many examples existed of contributions to the study of the links between human health, ecosystem health, environmental management, and activism. Most research institutions operated according to a view that considered research



almost exclusively for its merits in knowledge production (e.g. SRC-AUC, RSS, CNRS). Some institutions were constrained by their own vision, some by the political environment that challenges activism, some by practical limitations of staffing and funds. Naturally, not every institution can do everything. Yet, the important point is that, in the absence of institutional networks, many such contributions are not effectively used for development activities.

#### The Hybrid Type:

In human health and ecosystem health, few institutions attempt to cross the boundary between research and activism/activities. Some also attempt to address the additional challenge of studying and acting on the links between human health and ecosystem health. These are a kind of hybrid institutions that promote a policy agenda, awareness agenda and a research agenda (e.g. ICPH, ARIJ, AHED, FEA). Such institutions have to fight double battles. They have to accommodate the bureaucracy that is against research and activism. They have to deal with funding organizations whose narrow scope segregates the spheres these institutions are trying reconnect. They also have to deal and build a breed of researchers/practitioners that is rare in the Middle East. All of this, while in the same time they have to struggle to have access to shelved studies in universities and government organizations.

In common, these three types,

- a. lack the ability to formulate a long term research agenda,
- b. must respond to the pressure to be sensitive and reactive to emerging pressing needs,
- c. lack trained staff in ECOHEALTH,
- d. work in isolation of others who are involved in similar work in their country, the region, or the world.

#### **2.4. The Participation Ladder:**

Gradually, as states relinquish some powers to civil society, demand drives the agenda of many institutions. In this context, multiple stakeholders take a heightened importance; the resources and ideas of all sectors become important. Businesses, the government, civil-society, donors, and independent citizens, become essential in solving the problems of a globalized and volatile world. This gradual convergence of interest brings another set of issues to contend with. These issues are related to the capacity of institutions to practice participatory approaches particularly as regards ECOHEALTH. There seemed to be three prevalent levels of participation. This is what we turn to now.

Participation in Compliance:

Perhaps, not surprisingly, this is the most popular approach, particularly among government and teaching institutions. In Lebanon, Egypt, and Morocco the environmental priorities by the government are set at the Ministry of the Environment or another official organization to be followed by others in the country. The same goes for health. Subsequently, civil society, funding agencies, citizens, and others are expected to comply with these priorities. These priorities often translate into policies, allocation of funding, monitoring systems and regulations that do not necessarily reflect the convictions of the majority of stakeholders. Thus, defiance becomes the means and loss of human health and ecosystem health become the price. In Jordan, for example, the decree that created Dana Natural Reserve was followed by several manifestations of opposition from the local community whose livelihood depended on this area. Only after several months and after intensive negotiations with the local community did they stop their opposition and became partners in this reserve, which remains one of the most successful in the region.

As mentioned before, not only governments are implicated in this approach. Environmental law advocates and human health specialists were also given as examples of advocacy that takes place with the exclusion of people. Professional agendas and struggle for authority usually take precedence over people.

Participation in Actions:

This approach is typically pursued by conventional researchers, especially at universities and other research institutions. For this group, people are either the means to obtain information or the target of behavioral change. The Middle East is not unlike other parts of the world where

...under the guise of a professed intention for 'participatory' research, conventional approaches continue... 'Participation' is easily woven mechanistically into the process of linear development. Often the actors involved are neither convinced by devolving responsibility to local people. (Cornwall et al. 1994:42)

These restrictive methodologies may be attributed to a lack of knowledge about participatory methods, lack of appreciation of local people or lack of organized communities. Participatory methods were perceived to take time and be more costly. This reasoning may have been given by those who have a limited knowledge of participatory methodologies or a diluted conviction of their value. Needless to say, surveys and quantitative methods or scientific methods of environmental assessment are the main methods utilized here. Even in the case Environmental Impact



Assessments, where public participation is integrated into it in Canada, it is largely forgotten in the Middle East. The professionals do such assessments in the Middle East with the role of people limited to responding rather than 'participating'. This is exemplified in the work of the Faculty of Medicine at both JUST and JU, the Faculty of Engineering at the LAU, the FHS-AUB,<sup>9</sup> the SRC-AUC, the RSS,<sup>10</sup> the IERS, and UNDP-LB funded studies.

For example, the Protected Areas Project is a five years project, started in late 1996 and aims at the establishment of three demonstration natural reserves in Lebanon. Soon, another project covering two more sites will be annexed to this project. A major component of this project is scientific research to identify the existing flora and fauna in these reserves as well as the identification of species indicators for the purpose of future monitoring. The research component is subcontracted by the UNDP to the Lebanese National Council for Scientific Research (NCSR) whereby a group of 'experts' are working on it. In this case, the people are absented and short or long term benefits or impact on the people are assumed not negotiated.

#### Participation in Thinking and Acting:

This is the rare hybrid. A few examples exist where people were consulted and their input was integrated. The bright example of this is some work by the FEA, AHED, IPM-GTZ-JO, and the work of CARE-JO which use participatory methodologies in planning and monitoring projects. The link with human health is still not direct but the participatory methodologies indicate an interest and commitment to inclusive processes.

CARE-JO have followed participatory methodologies in needs assessment, planning, and monitoring of a variety of projects including range-land management, water resources management, and watershed management. They share with NEF-JO an interest and capacity to use participatory methodologies in planning, monitoring, and evaluation of projects.

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<sup>9</sup> The situation is already improving by change in leadership at the FHS and hiring the first full-time social scientist at the FHS.

<sup>10</sup> A Socioeconomic and Environmental Study of King Talal Reservoir Region was funded by IDRC and submitted by RSS on February 1995 (CF:91-0045). It can be deduced from the document that a quantitative survey was the methodology chosen for the study.

A few years back, The NEF-JO cooperated with GTZ in a participatory study of the role of women in agroforestry and in pesticide management.<sup>11</sup> Results showed that women play a significant role in both, with implications on their health. These findings were followed by a combination of awareness raising and other successful participatory project activities related to pesticide managements.

In an upcoming project of Integrated Waste Management in the Jordan Valley, Komex International, LTD, a Canadian environmental engineering firm, has contracted with NEF-JO to manage the community participation component of the project in the central Jordan Valley. The project is one of several "Social Productivity" projects underway to increase the availability of basic services across the country. The project aims to replace open dumping with a state-of-the-art facility using appropriate technologies. In the process, raw sewage will also be transformed into valuable water for agricultural activity. An education center will serve to assist the community in translating this resource and improved infrastructure into economic development, as well as facilitate opportunities related to public health and the environment.

The project strategy maintains a significant community acceptance and involvement for sustainability. To help bring this about, NEF-JO has designed a PRA process that will enable local residents to assess potential constraints and opportunities, as well as offer constructive input for project design. Initially, this will include defining the impact area, creating awareness concerning waste management issues, and ensuring adequate feedback through a stakeholders committee. NEF and Komex are keen to know what the community thinks about waste management and what can be done to help stimulate their greatest possible involvement. After three years, the facility will be turned over to a private company or a non profit organization for a 10-15 year concession. NEF and Komex plan for this pilot project to be replicated throughout Jordan and the Middle East.

An important point emphasized by this hybrid type of institutions is that participatory methodologies have to be introduced as early as the planning phase. Among other benefits, this will help all stakeholders to know and test the sincerity and style of the institution.

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<sup>11</sup> A research focus on hazards of pesticides is growing in many countries. An early activity in this regard is the "First Third World Conference on Environmental and Health Hazards of Pesticides," held in Cairo, 11-15 December 1989 (Amr [ed.] 1994). Currently, AHED is working a "pesticide, poverty, and gender project."



Looking at these three levels of participation, one must wonder how does participation fit into the emerging social frame of political liberalization?<sup>12</sup> Ideally, all social actors must participate in debates and actions that are relevant to their worlds. It is imperative to embrace participatory methodologies in order to buttress the role of civil institutions in holding the state and businesses accountable for their social and environmental performance. For example, about Healthy Cities von Schirnding writes:

...the need to address simultaneously issues around public policy, supportive environments for health, community action, development of individual skills, and ultimately changing the way in which local governments operates is of fundamental importance. (von Schirnding 1997:225)

The overarching challenge facing civil society institutions working in this field is how to improve their effectiveness in order to incorporate Ecohealth in a wider agenda of democratization of research and the state (see also Hafiz 1997:29). Other challenges face government organizations and universities. The common thread is the realization that the production of knowledge is not independent of other social determinants

## **2.5. Engendering ECOHEALTH in the Middle East:**

in the Middle East, an increasing body of research is mounting about gender issues in health (Nelson ed. 1983), reproductive health (e.g. CEWRIS 1994), in health indicators (Toubia et al. 1994). Additionally, research-based evidence is being added daily about gender inequity in the law (Tadros et al. 1995), political participation (Gomaa 1994, 1998), religious and social thought (Mernissi 1987, Badran 1995), and other spheres. Research on gender issues in the environment is only trickling down. The focus is mainly on how contaminants and environmental hazards influence different genders differently (e.g. NEF-GTZ study in Jordan), or gender issues in urban growth and health (Tekce et al. 1994), or on women's role in environmental management (El Katsha et al. 1989). This is paralleled with an increasing body of knowledge on the relation between human perceptions, attitudes, behaviors and environmental health conditions (e.g. El Katsha and Watts 1997a, 1997b; Hopkins and Mehanna 1997). Existing institutions deal with analysis of social variables differently. Yet, no cohesive framework exists for the study of ecosystem and human health according to relevant social variables.

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<sup>12</sup> Naturally, these levels and the nature of institutions within each are not exclusive. There is a certain degree of overlap. It is for the sake of analysis here that these constructs are posed.

Engendered but not totally Ecohealthed:

This is not to say that a gender perspective on social and environmental issues is non-existent. Interest and attempts to work in that direction exist in many forms (e.g. training, awareness, research, debates, manuals). The difficulty lies in the previously discussed dislocation of research, activism, and policy formulation. This is also compounded by the lack of harmony between government institutions and NGOs. This is also topped with the tendency to conceive of institutions within a narrow area of expertise. For example, the PC-Egypt has worked on several research projects on population, reproductive health and gender issues. They have also worked on urban growth, gender issues, and health issues a few years back. Now, their interest and knowledge about gender issues has not been translated into ECOHEALTH research because of lack of funds and trained personnel. The same capacity, potential, and external limitations apply for IPCH-Bir Zeit-Palestine, and PBWRC-Jordan, FHG-Jordan for example.

Not totally engendered but Interested:

Some existing institutions have the interest and basic awareness of gender issues but have been unable to progress in applying these concepts in their work. These are exemplified by the FHS-AUB, FHS-BU, ARIJ, JUST-Med., JU-Med., JES, IERS, EYDE, PEERC, and others. For example, PBWRC-JO had conducted three two-day workshops on "the Role of Women in Sustainable Development" but have had some financial and conceptual limitations to see the progress of this activity. In this case, these institutions have crossed the first hurdle towards gender sensitive research and have come to an awareness of its value. Now, their challenge is how to muster the resources and vision required for systematic sensitivity to social variables, especially in ECOHEALTH. In common, they have enthusiastic individuals who are willing to take the lead in this initiative. Their desires, however, cannot be realized without an analysis of constraints from within and from without institutions.

Not engendered and not sensitized:

On a scale of believers in gender segregated data and gender sensitive research, this group ranks the lowest. This category is largely filled by departments of engineering and environmental scientists (e.g. LAU, JUST, Alakhawayn University-MO, RSS). It is not that this group is necessarily uninterested in gender differences. Rather, they are focused on the non-health issues or non-human issues of the state of the environment. They see that improvements in the environment ultimately mean better environment and better well-being for everyone. In other words, the issue is that their prism cast human health as a secondary priority in contrast to ECOHEALTH where human health and ecosystem health are equal. For this group, the state of the environment matters



the most; thus, they require laboratories, technological advances, equipment, and 'scientific' knowledge.

With very few exception, no data sets exist that seek to highlight sensitivity to social variables within an ECOHEALTH framework. Despite the evidence that popular perception in Egypt for example directly links people's health with the condition of their environment (Hopkins and Mehanna 1997), explorations along this path are few and far inbetween.

Some government ministries are divided between this category and the previous one. For example, the planning is almost completed for the second phase of a major research project housed at the MOE-LB. The first phase was financed by UNDP's METAP (Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Program) and was conducted by private consultants. The study is titled "The Economic and Social Impacts of Mobile Sources of Air Pollution on Public Health in Greater Beirut Area." The research was funded by UNDP, WB, EU and other donors. The second phase aims at studying the different policy options. There is interest in covering gender issues but less so in participatory methodologies.

The MOE-LB is facing the all-too-common challenge: lack of basic information and studies. This urgency is often quoted to rationalize the popularity of basic research which, usually, focuses on environmental or on public health issues and less on social differences and on participation. The national ministries of environment are generally more interested in basic studies in order to obtain concrete data primarily on environmental degradation, less on its relation to health, and least on its relation to social differences. Many ministries (e.g., in LB, PAL), however, cannot afford to finance or conduct even these basic studies, at least for the time being. They prefer to play a mediating role between funding organizations and research institutions. These ministries also seem to be more interested in making policies than doing research. There is a general sense that research is not the responsibility of ministries but more for universities and NGOs.

The norm still remains that research on the state of the environment is more focused on the environment, less on people, and least on sensitivity to social variables. This is exemplified in the work of most 'environmental' institutions. In parallel, most research on the state of health focuses principally on its biological determinants, less on its social and gender differences and least on exploring systematically possible links with the environment. For example, a search in the website of the MOH-LB under the key words "health" and the "environment" yielded zero results. Existing research was more focused on maternal and child health.

## **2.6. Conclusions:**

These typologies reveal the current state of segregation of spheres of expertise and knowledge. They betray the lack a comprehensive approach and the resources that might make that happen. Funding, the state of knowledge, institutional and political imperatives are conducive to divergence not convergence. The skilled in gender analysis, or environmental studies, or environmental technology, or participatory methodologies are operating in mostly exclusive spheres. Yet, a crucial question is: Can they work together?

Many missing links weaken the required intellectual foundation for ECOHEALTH in the region. This consultancy revealed a real need to support existing and new efforts to close existing knowledge gaps. The first missing link is between work on human health and the work on ecosystem health. The second missing link is between the different areas of work in the field of the environment. For example, the link between those working on environmental research, environment management, environment awareness, environment policy at best is tenuous and at worst is non-existent. This is no secret and had been known for a number of years. The same applies for the different fields of health specializations. Another serious missing link is the one between civil groups and most scientists on one hand and bureaucrats and policy makers on the other. The combination of these missing links created considerable gaps that preclude substantial and suitable improvements in ecosystem health or human health. These missing links shape the current reality in the Middle East.

An important determinant of the power of research institutions is the lack of an overall environment of political participation and social inclusion. Openness to inquiry, policy transparency, responsive governments, supportive laws, freedom of association, are not the forte of the system in the region. It is hard to ignore the impact of such determinants on the knowledge produced in the region.



### **3. Realities and Alternative Visions:**

Different institutions have different capacities. Very few institutions are able to carry out the intellectual and practical burden of an ECOHEALTH research. For example, the MOH and the Ministry of Education in Palestine are only able to meet the most basic needs of programs. The NGOs are expected and relied upon for contribution to both service delivery and research. The universities are still seen as bastions of knowledge. The interest in improvements to the Middle Eastern institutional map exists. But, funding, intellectual, and political imperatives exist. Yet, there must be ways to bring together these spheres of independent expertise in health research, or environmental science research, or participatory research, gender analysis, or interdisciplinary research, or others. This is what will be addressed here.

#### **3.1. Networks:**

One of the most promising strategies of doing ECOHEALTH research is through fostering existing links and promoting new ones. For example, the AUB has an Interdepartmental Committee on Environmental Issues. This committee has been cooperating for a few years in offering courses and degrees in environment related fields. Since approximately a year ago, this committee is going through the next natural stage of development. Now, more students request their postgraduate supervisory committee to consists of members from the different departments that make up the committee. In addition, the departments are now finding it crucial to cooperate on students' research. The next development is expected to be in the form of more joint research projects between the member departments (FHS, Faculty of Engineering, and Faculty of Agriculture). Another example comes from Egypt, where the SRC is a member of an AUC working group on environmental sustainability.

These intra-institutional networks try to cross the disciplinary boundaries. Another example is IPCRI. Founded in Jerusalem in 1989, it is the only joint Palestinian-Israeli policy think-tank in the world. It is not a research institute per se, but, it houses researchers and has been involved in pilot research projects. IPCRI brings different parties together for research, the environment, peace building, and economic cooperation. Since 1997, IPCRI's environment program was streamlines to focus on two specific areas: (a) the effect of environmental change and degradation on public health, and (b) the facilitation of practical research, training programs and other forms of mutual cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians active in the environmental field. The primary objective of the program is to explore the impact of environmental change on the health of current and future Israeli and Palestinian populations and to

make public the health impacts of environmental changes in order to shape national policies.<sup>13</sup>

IPCRI has a project funded by IDRC which is concerned with environment and public health.<sup>14</sup> In the description of IPCRI's respondent:

We have done work on dioxin hazards, the problem of solid and hazardous waste treatment and disposal in the West Bank and Gaza (and the role of Israel in helping to deal with this problem), dangers to children from lead emissions, and pesticide overuse. In all these areas we have acted as facilitators, bringing together Israeli and Palestinian experts and helping them to conduct pilot research.<sup>15</sup>

Thus, IPCRI is exemplary of another type of network. It brings together not only an interdisciplinary team but parties of a conflict who must work together towards better Ecohealth. In this case, Ecohealth and other areas are means and ends. In this network, IPCRI has to deal with the gap in the research capacity between the Israeli side and the Palestinian side.<sup>16</sup> Thus, networks must be sensitive to the have specific requirements that could make them effective.

Intra-departmental teams also create another type of networks as in the case of ICPH-Bir Zeit. For example, the Women's Health Unit regularly links with the Environmental Health Unit as well as the Child Health Unit or the Epidemiology Unit and so on. This is then extended to other university departments, most notably the Women's Studies

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<sup>13</sup> The program, which is currently, mainly funded by IDRC, is concerned with four specific problems: (a) The handling of hazardous waste, (b) The question of pollution from dioxins and PCBs, (c) The threat to children's health caused by lead emissions from automobiles and industrial sources, and (d) The health hazards to workers and consumers from the improper handling of pesticides.

<sup>14</sup> More information about this program can be obtained from David Brooks of IDRC.

<sup>15</sup> Applied research is also a priority, for example related to oil residues, seed bank, solid and hazardous waste disposal, national parks and nature reserves, waste water collection and reuse in villages within the Palestinian authority area. In addition, IPCRI works on environmental conflict resolution and promoting environmental awareness.

<sup>16</sup> Yet, IPCRI perceives that involving the people--through participatory methods--is time consuming. IPCRI is right in one sense--institutions have to be ready before a change in approach can be introduced. IPCRI is also interested in taking a gender perspective but it needs time to be well developed.



Programme, but also the Biology and Chemistry Departments as well as the Engineering and Business and Commerce Faculties.

Another type of networks is sponsored by CEHA. CEHA's program aims to strengthen the environmental health information exchange capacity in the region. CEHA was prompted by the "lack of access to reliable and timely information [which] hinders the promotion of [environmental health] activities in several countries" (CEHA 1999:1). The result is its information network CEHANET on the national and regional level. CEDARE is another example of a capacity building network providing support to nurtures a networking environment.

The number of relevant NGO coordinated networks is on the rise in the region. CEDARE is an example. HDIP is also an example. HDIP is "devoted to promoting coordination between the NGO and government sectors" as their respondent explained. This coordination is done through information services, consultations, training, and evaluation. Recognizing the inseparability of health from civil society, research from political liberalization, and the importance of networking, HDIP is an active member of the Palestinian NGO Network. HDIP was also appointed secretary of the coordination forum consisting of Palestinian health NGOs and the Ministry of Health.

Networking is most effective when focusing on a specific issue or problem. IPCRI's networking efforts are always purposeful. Recently, IPCRI held a three day workshop for senior Israelis and Palestinians government officials, local authorities and universities to consider the topic of solid and hazardous waste

Government coordinated networks are shyly entering the scene as well. In Morocco, *La Direction de l'Enseignement, de la Recherche et du Développement* of the MOAg.-MO is responsible for orienting, coordinating, and evaluating research and higher education activities. This work involves managing direct relationships with some 40 technical and professional schools through the *La Division de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Agricole*. This network is challenged by past institutional histories, bureaucracy, and lack of models. It is, however, a new venture and needs time.

Networks are not always a facile way of doing business. For example, CEHA's information networking efforts were challenged by a lack of standardized information and lack of appropriate training and learning material (CEHA 1999:2). Additionally, funding and competition issues often have a bad implication on networks. In most cases it is not feasible to cooperate on small projects. It is also not feasible to go through the pains of networking for the sake of implementing one project, especially with a modest budget. Networks need an intellectual nurturing environment that is often absent.

To work on or through networks is one option for consideration by MERO. This should not come as a surprise to IDRC. IDRC is the sponsor for WDMRN-Middle East North Africa (Water Demand Management Research Network)<sup>17</sup> and the International School Network on Water Toxicity.<sup>18</sup> Furthermore, IDRC recognized networking needs a while ago as in the case of the "Ecosystem Health Network."<sup>19</sup> In the description, it is noted that,

The language and methodologies for [Ecosystem Health] continue to evolve but crucial to the success of the approach is the creation of an enabling environment which assists and encourages investigators to pursue transdisciplinary research undertakings. This [project] is geared towards the creation of an ecosystem Health Network which will focus on selected researchers attached to specific projects which demonstrate a working affinity with the [Ecosystem Health] framework.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> From IDRC website ([idrc.ca/waterdemand/workingsite\\_e.html](http://idrc.ca/waterdemand/workingsite_e.html))

<sup>18</sup> Aquatox 2000 Fact Sheet.

<sup>19</sup> Found in IDRIS, project # 954020. The project is reported to be sponsored by the Ecosystem Health Unit.

<sup>20</sup> According to IDRIS, Contact in IDRC is Graham Reid.



Why Networks?	Why Not?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ bring together people from different disciplines, capacities and perspectives,</li> <li>▶ new alliances can be created,</li> <li>▶ create intellectual momentum,</li> <li>▶ certain issues are best addressed by larger research projects with more teams and funds,</li> <li>▶ sometimes, larger budget means better quality research,</li> <li>▶ research time can be reduced especially with the presence of knowledgeable teams, and</li> <li>▶ create opportunity for young researchers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ people tend to hold on to their expertise, thus, making it difficult for networks to be effective,</li> <li>▶ sometimes coordination is hard,</li> <li>▶ can be time consuming,</li> <li>▶ funding arrangements can be contentious,</li> <li>▶ budget costs might be too high,</li> <li>▶ usually require longer time frame, and</li> <li>▶ experts may not give opportunities for younger researchers.</li> </ul>

## 2. Networks and IDRC.

### 3.2. Partnerships:

Many types of partnerships exist. The commonest type is between local organizations and international organizations. The international organizations usually provide fund and expertise. NGO-GO partnerships are also on the rise and so are University-GO partnerships. University-NGO partnerships lag behind.

Partnerships create opportunities for advancement in research and policy. HDIP, whose mandate is facilitating the participation of NGOs with GOs in formulating health policies through informed networking, is in partnerships with Palestinian government bodies (e.g. MOH-PAL, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics), NGOs (UPMRC, Union of Health Work Committees, Patient's Friends Society of Jenin), and universities (e.g. Schools of Public Health at the Johns Hopkins University and University of Michigan).

IPCH-Bir Zeit is another example. It is a kind of university-government partnership. IPCH has partnerships with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Labor, the Ministry of Industry, The Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Planning. For example, they are working on issues of medical waste and child health in cooperation with the Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics, Additionally, they have a

good close relationship with different governors, the municipalities, other NGOs, and UNRWA. These relationships allow IPCH an entry into policy formulation.

IPCH is also partnering with international organizations and universities. IPCH-Bir Zeit is currently working on diabetes mellitus with Oslo University, on anemia among women of child bearing age with Oslo University, on fertility and its determinants in cooperation with the Ford Foundation, on mental health in cooperation with the Ford Foundation, on violence in the schools, in cooperation with Bristol University, England. Ecohealth may not be the theoretical frame within which these researches are implemented but partnership can allow for capacity building, funding, long term change that provides good basis for Ecohealth research.

Another example is NEWS-JO. It is an NGO which was established in 1996 (formerly Friends of Plants Society). The main areas of work are in training and awareness raising in matters related to the environment. NEWS is a member of the Environmentally Healthy School Initiative. NEWS has assisted two Canadian students with IDRC funds to obtain their master degree in Jordan last year. Their fund was from the ECOHEALTH PI. Initial support for these students was from the "Environmentally Healthy School Initiative." Current funds come from partnerships with GTZ, the Mediterranean Ecological Media Network, and GCEP. NEWS is also a host to the Mediterranean Ecological Media Network (MED-ECOMEDIA Network). They also formed a Wildlife Task force to work with other NGO's to form a coalition.

The Department of Environmental and Water Resources Engineering, JUST- Eng., is a member of the Badia development project in Jordan. It is a kind of a university-scientific society partnership. The 'Badia' is a big project that focuses on the Badia region of Jordan with research studies on human resources development, socioeconomic impacts of new development, water resources development, agricultural and food production, prevention of soil erosion, and other aspects. The department particularly contributes to the water resources development component and some environmental studies in soil contamination. This Badia Project is a major project funded by the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) and the British Royal Geographic Society (RGS). It has been running since 1993. Most of the work that has been done is environmental sciences research. Another example is the department's involvement in a research on the impact of climate change on water resources, agricultural activities and crop patterns, demographic and socioeconomic situation in Jordan.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> This is a UNDP-funded project that is executed by a private company in Amman in collaboration with JUST. The department is also involved in a research project on the health impact of wastewater treatment plants in Jordan in terms of odor, public acceptance, and so on. In these plants, large size ponds are created for the wastewater to stay for several weeks in order to be treated naturally (without mechanical setups). This technique is the most common in Jordan



Another example comes from the department's work in the Akaider region in northern Jordan. A major landfill of solid waste exists in this area close to several villages. These villages started to witness human health problems especially in children. The other partners in this research included Purdue University, U.S.A. and the AUB. The case studies were developed for students in the three universities.<sup>22</sup>

In Lebanon, a UNDP-GO--mainly MOE--partnership exists. Through this partnership universities are recruited to meet the need for information on certain environmental priorities. This partnership aims to cover the following range: the establishment of three demonstration natural reserves; Agrobiodiversity Project with Agricultural Research Institute (ARI)-Minister of Agriculture; and the Methyl bromide Alternatives project with the Ministry of Environment.<sup>23</sup> UNDP also responds to other priorities related to establishing an industrial permitting system, biodiversity conservation, environment observatory, and others. Most of these projects have a research component.<sup>24</sup>

Research partnership has become a highly valued approach in handling institutional relationships. Such partnerships require investment in time, effort and trust. The Swiss Commission for Research Partnership with Developing Countries came up with Guidelines for Research in Partnership with Developing Countries (KFPE 1998). If taken into consideration, these guidelines will benefit MERO's thinking about partnerships or indeed any of the other strategies proposed here. Indeed this is one of the gains of Healthy Cities,

...a body of knowledge is now available on factors such as the structure of partnerships that may be needed and that mechanisms can be used to strengthen

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and in the Middle East because of its low cost and its suitability with the hot climate of the region. On the other hand, it is associated with odor and insect problems that make the surrounding communities suffer. The department's project interviewed effected people and took their opinions in the design of a project that aimed at including people suffering as an indirect costs to such wastewater projects. This study will go on for one more year.

<sup>22</sup> This and other case studies were presented at the American Society of Agronomy's conference in Baltimore, MD in October, 1998.

<sup>23</sup> The objective of the project is to demonstrate the technical and economic feasibility of non-chemical and chemical methods as alternatives to the use of methyl bromide in the production of cucumbers, tomatoes, strawberries and eggplants.

<sup>24</sup> Quantitative and survey methods are routinely used in the research components of these projects. Most projects are aimed at environment sustainability with human health conspicuously absent.

community participation in the long term. Thus, we know more about not only what is needed but how to achieve it. (von Schirnding 1997: 226)

**The Eleven Guidelines for Research in Partnership with Developing Countries:**

1. Decide on objectives together,
2. Build up mutual trust,
3. Share information; develop networks,
4. Share responsibility,
5. Create transparency,
6. Monitor and evaluate the collaboration,
7. Disseminate the results,
8. Apply the results,
9. Share profits equitably,
10. Increase research capacity, and
11. Build on the achievements.

**3. Research Partnerships. (KFPE 1998)**



Why Partnerships?	Why Not?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ long term relations are more desirable in the ME,</li> <li>▶ through time, interaction can be conducive to constructive change in the involved parties,</li> <li>▶ less effort is wasted on constantly seeking new relations,</li> <li>▶ facilitate the formation of local and international network,</li> <li>▶ multiple partnerships facilitate interdisciplinary work,</li> <li>▶ facilitate financial planning and commitment, and</li> <li>▶ create opportunity for young researchers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ create dependency,</li> <li>▶ can outlive their effectiveness,</li> <li>▶ parties involved may develop of monopolies or laziness,</li> <li>▶ sometimes coordination is hard, and brings more responsibility,</li> <li>▶ partners are often limited in their expertise,</li> <li>▶ require long term financial planning and commitment, and</li> <li>▶ networking may create an adversarial atmosphere between well-established researchers/institutions and young researchers/institutions.</li> </ul>

#### 4. Partners and IDRC.

#### 3.3. Conventional Projects:

Most institutions obtain research funds on a project-to-project basis. Research funds in the Middle East are very limited. Additionally, most institutions suffer from chronic understaffing and underfunding. It is also not uncommon to find out that most institutions revolve around one or two persons who are able to raise funds and lead the institution. These factors are of particular relevance for ECOHEALTH. The situation is described by one respondent as such:

[there is an]...absence of a solid base of grants for environmental research. There is money for environmental awareness or similar matters but not as much for research. Some organizations, like the EU, are very bureaucratic, [thus] making it hard to access funds... This situation leads to a severe competition between existing institutions for the limited funding.

Diversification of funding sources and areas of expertise requires institutions to have a solid structure, solid management, solid expertise, and multiple foci of excellence (e.g. FHS-AUB, SRC-AUC, JUST, NHF, CEDARE, RSS, PC-Cairo). Larger institutions have

the means to impress others with their good performance on some or all these fronts. For smaller or more localized institutions the situation is sometimes harder (e.g. EECA, EYDE, FOEA, NEWS). Such institutions face challenges dictated by their own internal limitations and also the limitations of funding. They are often systematically excluded because of their limited size, scope, structure, or vision. Better understanding of institutional capacity means a better chance of providing effective support to local institutions.

Nurturing budding institutions is risky and demanding. Many sponsors are unwilling or unable to meet the risk or demand. Nurturing is particularly hard on a project-by-project basis. The learning is interrupted with a risk of loss of the chance of cumulative knowledge. Additionally, the already common risk of brain drain is increased. Thus, smaller organizations that are excellent only in one aspect or that are not entirely solid have less chance to reach their vision than those that are already established (e.g. FHG in reproductive health, EYDE in ecotourism). Budding university departments (e.g. JU-Med.), budding NGOs (e.g. EECA, NEWS), and even budding government ministries (MOE-LB) are in competition with well established university departments, NGOs, and ministries, not to mention the private sector. Undoubtedly, MERO's funding strategy must respond to the issue of support for diverse institutions and whether MERO can afford the risks that might be involved.

The situation is more challenging because ECOHEALTH is new in the region. Can Ecohealth be promoted and implemented by existing organizations? What size organizations are capable of doing so? What kind of help do new, emerging, or smaller organizations need in order for them to do Ecohealth research? The answers will not come from this basic consultancy, but, it is safe to say that available information foretells the importance of clear answers to these questions in any future funding strategy.



Why Conventional Projects?	Why Not?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ no need to change existing system,</li> <li>▶ allows for equal opportunities,</li> <li>▶ relatively less time is required,</li> <li>▶ may not require change to existing financial resources,</li> <li>▶ support is mainly financial,</li> <li>▶ no advocacy required within IDRC,</li> <li>▶ relatively easier process of dissemination of information, and</li> <li>▶ may rely largely on already shining institutional stars.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ a non-conventional strategy will trigger a momentum for Ecohealth research in the region,</li> <li>▶ may preclude help for new institutions to benefit from non-financial aid and networking,</li> <li>▶ relatively more time is required,</li> <li>▶ may require more financial resources,</li> <li>▶ substantial intellectual and institutional support may be required,</li> <li>▶ may require advocacy within IDRC,</li> <li>▶ relatively harder process of dissemination of information (more funds, more copyright, etc.), and</li> <li>▶ allow budding institutions equal opportunities.</li> </ul>

## 5. Conventional Projects and IDRC.

### 3.4. Research and Education:

Most institutions have to struggle to obtain research funds. The most challenging aspect of doing research in the Middle East, however, may not be funding; the formation of good researchers is harder. Undoubtedly, this is a familiar challenge for MERO. One of the respondents, who holds a senior position at an academic institution, reflected on the issue saying:

People here do like to conduct research. [Apart from] the issue of funding [which] is important...there is a great status associated with doing research. The problem very often is that institutions do not have the human resources or the infrastructure to conduct research. This is why we so often call on agencies to fund Ph.D. scholarships. In our experience, a good researcher is formed in that sphere more often than others. A masters degree very often does not allow for good conceptualization nor ability. Of course there are exceptions. So the main problem here is the lack of human resource to do good work.

Another example is Morocco where good caliber researchers are hard to produce and harder to keep. In Morocco, an external brain drain draws qualified scientists abroad and an internal brain drain draws them to more lucrative situations.<sup>25</sup>

The intertwining of research and graduate education cannot be escaped. Mostly, research capacity is initially formed through education in the many universities in the region. These graduates eventually hold positions of authority in the domains of science, bureaucracy, and policy. Support in this direction could yield high appreciation for research, researchers, and need for funding. Simultaneously, education equals status. Investment in education of researchers must be carefully considered in order to avoid further alienation between traditional researchers and communities. This matter is particularly relevant because of the focus on participatory methodologies and interdisciplinarity in ECOHEALTH.

Relative to education and research, a two pronged strategy may be pursued:

- A. Support for formation of researchers in social sciences and environmental sciences. The aim is to contribute to the formation of a context that is conducive to interdisciplinary research.
- B. Support to the teaching and formation of participatory research approaches. The aim is to elevate the profile of participatory research approaches through formal education. This should be in parallel with continuing support for informal training on and practice of participatory methodologies in development.

A sophisticated approach is required to promote ECOHEALTH in the Middle East. An important question is whether support for formal education, or for research and study scholarships, or informal training programs, or practice (participatory research) can be pursued independent of each other.

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<sup>25</sup> This information derives from Morocco's submission to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development in July 1998.  
([www.un.org/esa/agenda21/natlinfo/countr/morocco/inst.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/agenda21/natlinfo/countr/morocco/inst.htm))



Why Support Formal Education?	Why Not?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ contribute towards an interdisciplinary work environment,</li> <li>▶ a good long-term investment,</li> <li>▶ elevate the profile of participatory research approaches, and</li> <li>▶ enhance the not-so-strong status of researchers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ hard to influence existing entrenched systems in the region,</li> <li>▶ requires extensive financial and human resources from MERO,</li> <li>▶ alienate good traditional researchers, and</li> <li>▶ a large gap already exists between researchers and people in the region,</li> </ul>

## 6. Education and IDRC.

A relevant and interesting observation came from an Egyptian respondent who noted that many funding agencies direct their financial support--that is already limited--to universities and government affiliate institutions. This leaves smaller funds on more specific topics to other institutions. The situation is further complicated by the fact that conventional research methodologies and topics have a higher profile in public universities and government institutions, thus, precluding the promotion of the non-conventional ECOHEALTH pillars. Furthermore, a lack of balanced funding means that most young researchers are trained on conventional approaches with repercussions on the future of the production of knowledge in the region. This is also combined with the politics of obtaining research permits. Universities and official government institutions have the ability to easily obtain research permits.

### 3.5. Conclusions:

It will be wise for MERO to develop a flexible and versatile ECOHEALTH support package. Any blueprint support package will run the risk of being ineffective. For example, in the selection of potential grantees, insisting on participatory approaches will exclude most universities, insisting on interdisciplinarity will be unaffordable for most NGOs, insisting on research that is sensitive to social variables will limit eligible institutions to a handful, and even insisting on track record of research in environment and health issues may not capture the rich potential that can come from the highly diverse institutional capacity profile in the region. Research capacity building may need to become an integral part of any future ECOHEALTH strategy in the region. Better and more diverse knowledge could come from a versatile package of support to diverse institutions.

## **4. Special Areas of Interventions:**

In the previous section, potential ECOHEALTH strategies were proposed. This section aims at emphasizing the need to also take into consideration some relevant foci for future strategies. Concern about certain pertinent issues in the research process is growing in the region. These concerns are not exclusively ECOHEALTH specific; they relate to the future of good quality research in the region.

### **4.1. Research Ethics:**

HDIP is currently participating in the creation of a national ethical review board to ensure integrity of researchers and informants in Palestine. This is a step to tackle the fact that, in the Middle East, knowledge is often produced without a highly developed ethical code or clear guidelines.<sup>26</sup> A few other researchers and institutions have tried to address the issue, on a small scale, internally, or on a larger scale through conferences. The results are promising but far from sufficient.

One respondent, with one foot in academia and another in the NGO sector, had the interesting observation that ethical issues are more frequently ignored by student researchers in the university than in NGOs. At least one aspect of ethical issues is taken more seriously--albeit not necessarily systematically--in NGO research; they tend to be more conscientious about eliciting community needs or problems. It is hard to ascertain at this point the extent to which this respondent's point of view is shared or that this situation is common. It is important to note, however, what others have agreed on:

- i. a functional and effective research code of ethics is not in place,
- ii. research in academia and in the NGO sector go in parallel lines, and
- iii. research capacity, commitment to the community, and ethical standards are different between NGOs, academic institutions, and government institutions.

ECOHEALTH has the advantage of being a new area of research in the region. An initial exploration and investment in ways to address research ethics in this field will be wise because they will:

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<sup>26</sup> In Iran, it was reported that a network is now developed to address the issue of a code of ethics for social development and research work. Iran is seen as a society that is opening up and one that has some fine researchers who lack any support (from a communication with the Regional Director of the Pop. Council).



- i. place ECOHEALTH on a different and more respectable track than other approaches in the region,
- ii. Facilitate promoting links and alliances between NGOs, universities and government bodies involved in research, and
- iii. benefit from past local activities in this field.

Ethical issues could be addressed within any of the proposed strategies in the previous chapter. Prioritizing these strategic alternatives may become easier by taking into consideration how each may influence the production of an effective national or regional code of ethics.

#### **4.2. *Measuring Institutional Capacity:***

The diversity in the capacity of existing institutions and the need for diversity in forms of support lead one to think that a rigid measure of institutional capacity in the Middle East is not advisable because:

- i. Institutions have different criteria based on which their boards and trustees measure their performance,
- ii. Institutional capacity is inseparable from the overall openness of political, bureaucratic, and policy environment,
- iii. Institutional capacity varies widely within countries and in-between countries,
- iv. Institutions usually have a life cycle. Support needs to match the developmental stage of the institution,
- v. The domain of influence of members of most institutions is larger than the confines of their home institution. For example, NGOs enjoy the membership of many government workers and home-makers. Universities enjoy the studentship and lectureship of many government politicians and bureaucrats. In many cases the boundary between the private sector, NGO, and not-for-profit company is a blur, and
- vi. The usual centralized structure of most institutions in the region should be evaluated with caution. Centralized institutions could be enabling as well as disabling.

Many more reasons exist why sensitive and flexible assessment of institutional capacity is required. MERO's strategy for exclusion or inclusion should be based on a sensitive approach of measuring performance. To take one area as an example, a challenge exists in taking the number and qualifications of staff as an indicator of size of organization and quality of work. For instance, EYDE has a few staff but more than one thousand volunteers, NEWS has two staff but one hundred and fifty volunteer experts, FHG has three staff, five board members but a dozen or more associates, JES has

twenty four chapters in Jordan with five thousand members, and PBWRC has 128,000 women associates all over Jordan. Financial and professional imperatives force many institutions now to have a versatile membership. In some instances, some institutions are unable to grow in the direction they see necessary. For example, JES, NEWS, EYDE, FHG and others are eager to build their capacity in applied research in the area of health and the environment but must adapt to the many existing limitations that were discussed before. Thus, criteria for assessment must be context specific and well-thought.

#### **4.3. Others:**

One of the inspiring findings is that many interesting thoughts and attempts are floating around awaiting nurture. The FRSC-EG's website reveals a conference on "present and Future Status of Genetics and Genetic Engineering in the Arab World Till the Year 2020." One of the themes of the conference was on the status of genetic engineering in the fields of medical, agricultural and environmental sciences. This is a theme that is not frequently or sufficiently explored in the region. Nurturing non-conventional ideas seems to be a challenge facing any research funding organization. Some of these innovative ideas may be considered as a main research theme or a sub-theme. It will be important to take note of what other creative ideas are floating.



## **5. Conclusions:**

### **5.1. Concluding thoughts:**

The discussion of the current situation and the possible strategic options shows that an ECOHEALTH strategy requires efforts on several fronts:

- I. Institutional assessment: Creative and sensitive ways of measuring institutional capacity are required. Innovative strategies also require non-conventional approaches to assessment. A system of assessment is possible and required but it must be creative and flexible.
- II. Programmatic focus: One of the questions facing MERO is related to the usefulness of refining the three main programmatic areas (agriculture, urban and mining) to reflect some more specific priorities in the region. Refinement need not mean restricting independence and creativity. The refinement may mean a better ability for providing institutional support.<sup>27</sup>
- III. Secondary foci: Clearly, many relevant issues have to be addressed before making ECOHEALTH a popular intellectual research framework in the Middle East. Some secondary foci were suggested previously. The particulars, however, could be explored in a follow-up mission and through a participatory process with local institutions in the future.
- IV. Technical assistance: MERO may be faced with the question of whether funding alone is sufficient to reach the potentially good knowledge and betterment of the ecohealth situation in the Middle East. MERO may consider a role for itself as a mentor or facilitator for ECOHEALTH in the region, at least for an initial period. This could also be done directly or indirectly through networks and partnerships.
- V. Funding: Appropriate amounts and duration of funds may need to be considered for this PI in the MERO.

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<sup>27</sup> It is reported that the most pressing areas that need to be addressed in order to overcome ecosystem deterioration in the region are: the aridity of the environment, the coastal environment, enforcing regional and national commitments (Halim 1995:12, based on an interview with Mr. Abdel Fattah Al Qassass former director of the UNEP and Professor of Botany at Cairo University). "Unplanned urbanisation, a natural heritage in danger of extinction , and the population problem are three other targets of the global effort for environmental preservation" (Halim 1995:12).

- VI. Evaluation criteria: ECOHEALTH will be a new framework in the Middle East. Evaluation for funded projects must take that into consideration. More time may be required before developing standard evaluation methodologies that are sensitive to institutional capacity and current state of knowledge.
- VII. Internal advocacy: Certain issue may need to be addressed inside IDRC, for example, as regards funding, strategic direction, and evaluation. Internal work may be required before this PI can be effectively launched in the region.
- VIII. External advocacy: Working with certain donor organizations, local institutions, and policy makers may be a necessity for IDRC-MERO. This must be considered in light of the strategic options and MERO's capacity.

The missing link between human health and ecosystem health research can be overcome by ECOHEALTH. The underlying challenge will be how to balance advances in research with social realities. How can the role of researchers be balanced vis. a vis. people? Is it possible to balance the role of universities vis. a vis. NGOs? Does research promote reconsideration of the role of governments vis. a vis. civil society? What will ECOHEALTH change in Middle Eastern Lives? Better environment? Better health? Better research? Better participation? Better civil society? Better social harmony? The answer will lie partially in IDRC-MERO's preferred ECOHEALTH funding strategy.

## **5.2. Next Steps:**

The following steps are suggested as a follow up:

- A. A mission to the region: The purpose will be to:
  - 1. Closer assessment of some of the identified institutions,
  - 2. Assess the capacity of some more institutions,
  - 3. Explore possible specific research priorities,
  - 4. Identify other relevant needs (e.g. capacity building),
  - 5. Examine the potential for networking and partnership,
  - 6. Identify secondary foci for programming,
  - 7. Build and strengthen relation between identified institutions and IDRC-MERO, and
  - 8. Respond to other IDRC requests.
- B. Formulation of funding strategy: The development of such a strategy could be an internal matter or a more collaborative process with (potential) local partners. This may be also linked to other local or regional scientific events. This will also require identifying the necessary human and financial resources to make the



strategy effective. To the extent possible, it will be wise to take advantage of the momentum that started with this consultancy. A short duration between this consultancy and formulating a funding strategy is desirable.

C. Dissemination of funding strategy information.

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## **Appendices**



## **Appendix I: Terms of Reference.**

Following the MERO regional meeting held in Cairo in January 1999, the regional Director and the Ecohealth team jointly agreed to sponsor the work of a consultant to advise on a coherent development of the ECOHEALTH program Initiative within the particular context of the region.

Through discussion, the partners agreed on a pressing need to find out which institutions might have the resources and abilities to carry research with an Ecohealth approach. After having identified these research partners, MERO and ECOHEALTH could then start to discuss project development with some of the most promising teams. This will also give the basis for a coherent and sustainable action plan for the development of the ECOHEALTH Program Initiative with the Regional Office in the MERO region.

Pursuant to this contract, the consultant shall identify a set of key institutions in Morocco, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt and Palestine that have the potential to conduct research in the field of Ecosystem Approaches to Human Health, and to do a first analysis of their capacities. The consultant shall:

- a) familiarise himself with the ECOHEALTH approach and some of its existing activities;
- b) complete a list of some key organizations (GOs, NGOs, Univ.) Which have in the past used interdisciplinary, community participation, and gender/social equity methodologies for research aiming to address environmental and human health issues;
- c) identify contact person and obtain available information on these organizations and their relevant activities;
- d) develop a general understanding of the scope of activities of each organization and prepare a list of questions for interviews. IDRC should be consulted on these questions and will provide authorization before contacts are made; and
- e) submit a report documenting the above information and including recommendations for future directions of the ECOHEALTH approach in MERO. The report include, for each identified organization, the name(s) of key contacts in each institution, description of each institutions's mandate, source of funding, international activities and research projects which have a close relation or could potentially link to the ECOHEALTH framework. In addition, an assessment of the ability to conduct research with an Ecosystem Approach to Human Health perspective will also be documented. This report is to be submitted by 29 October 1999.

**Appendix II:      Form letter accompanying initial communication and  
mailed packages of Ecohealth information.**

October 29, 1999

Dear :

Please find attached some documentation on the Ecosystem Approaches to Human Health to follow up on my initial communication with you. I hope you find the information useful. I am also hoping that you will find the information helpful in answering the questions that are in this package.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to contact you to let you know of this potential opportunity and also to ask for your help in completing my task. IDRC has asked for my help in trying to identify and do a provisional assessment of organizations that do research in the area of the environment and its link to human health. This is a relatively new research initiative by IDRC that focuses on using a methodology involving interdisciplinary teams, participation, and a gender perspective in looking at urban, agricultural and mining issues (broadly defined).

There are several IDRC-funded research projects under this initiative in other parts of the world but not in the Middle East. I am trying to identify institutions in Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, and Morocco which are already involved in or have the capacity to be involved in such an initiative. These could be GOs, NGOs, Universities, or research institutes.

This is the reason behind my contact with you. We would like to learn more of your involvement in this field. If so, can you provide me with some answers for the attached questions? I would also like to ask you, if possible, to nominate and send me the contact information for other institutions (in any of the five countries) who might be interested in this opportunity.

Please look at the questions attached and let me know if you prefer to respond to them by e mail, fax or phone. I can phone you at a time that is convenient for you if you let me know the best number to reach you at. As well as it is an opportunity to help IDRC decide on their research assistance strategy, I think it is an opportunity to include the Middle East in this most interesting program initiative.

Thank you very much and look forward to hearing from you very soon.

Montasser



**Appendix III: A briefing sheet that accompanied initial communication.**

**Ecosystem Approaches to Human Health  
(Ecosystem Health or ECOHEALTH).**

Excerpts from IDRC Literature

In nature, the well-being of people can not be separated from the environment, which provides all species, including humans, with a home and both sustenance and hazards. The aim of the Program Initiative is to identify interventions that will lead to better management of the ecosystems in order to improve human health and well-being while simultaneously maintaining or improving the health of the ecosystem as a whole.

Ecosystem health is a concept that encompasses the complex interplay among the environment and the socioeconomic, cultural, and political conditions of any group of people. In Particular, it focuses on how these relationships influence human health and well-being. The initiative will support research to develop and evaluate new approaches for health impact assessment in environmental assessments and field test proposed sets of indicators for ecosystem health. Interdisciplinary expertise and new research strategies and proposals that address and test the full ecosystem health approach will also be promoted. A gender perspective and participatory approaches are actively promoted by the initiative. Through these interventions, the initiative will forward the agenda of ecosystem health both in the developing world and in Canada.

Because of its focus on human health, the Program Initiative will only considers projects whose focus is on ecosystems that include human communities as a significant component of the whole.

IDRC, P.O. Box 8500, Ottawa, Ont. K1G 3H9. Canada. [www.idrc.ca](http://www.idrc.ca)

**Appendix IV: The Institutional Identification Form that accompanied initial communication.**

**Institutional Identification Form**

**A. Identification:**

1. Name:
2. Name of contact Person(s):
3. Position:
4. Address:
5. What is the mandate of the organization?
6. Nature of organization (GO, NGO, Univ.)
7. What are the main areas of work of the organization?

**B. Programmatic Information:**

8. Do you currently have research projects that are relevant to Ecohealth? (e.g. environmental sustainability, conservation, environmental health, pesticides, heavy metals, and so on; using participatory methods, interdisciplinary teams gender perspectives?)
9. Can you comment on the ability of your organization to do Ecohealth research. (using participatory methods, interdisciplinary teams gender perspectives)
10. What are the main research methodologies used by the organization?
11. What are the key external challenges facing research work by the organization?
12. What are the key internal administrative or technical challenges facing the research work of the organization?
13. Describe the professional and educational background of the staff.



14. History of publications.
15. History of dissemination of information.

**C. Organizational Environment Information:**



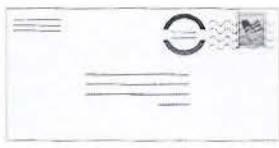



16. Mention three key strengths of the organization.
17. Describe the structure and division of responsibilities in the organization?
18. Do different units work together inside the organization? Examples?
19. What kinds of networks/partnerships does the organization have?
20. What are the sources of funding of the research projects.
21. What are the current international activities in research, fund raising, dissemination of findings?

**D. External Environment Information:**



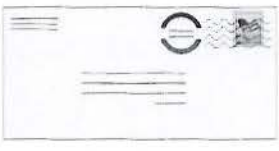



22. Describe the overall environment of doing research in your country, including funding, legal, ethical, gender and other issues.



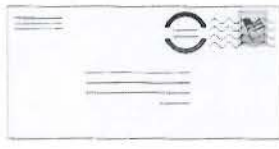



Send information to Dr. Montasser M. Kamal, 610-99 rue Cartier, Ottawa, Ontario, K2P 1K2. Canada. Tel. 613 565 4650, Fax. 613 565 7139, E. Mail: [mkam@globalserve.net](mailto:mkam@globalserve.net)

**Appendix V: List of identified institutions and individuals.**







					
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Prof. Abdel Azem Hamad, Dean	Institute for Environmental Research and Studies	Ain Shams University Heliopolis Cairo  T. 2 02 247 0326	Egypt	☺	☒
Prof. Mostafa Awad, Human Science Division  Prof. Mostafa Ragab, Medical Science Division	Institute for Environmental Research Studies	Ain Shams University Heliopolis Cairo  T. (H.) 2 02 364 1039  T. (H.) 2 02 294 4184	Egypt	☺	☒



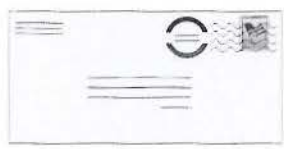





					
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<p>Dr. Amr Hassan, Assistant Professor</p> <p>Director of Health Policies and Systems Program, Association for Health and Environmental Development.</p>	<p>Suez Canal University</p>	<p>Faculty of Medicine Suez</p> <p>T/F (W) 064 229982 062 228796 T. (H) 02 3372050 T. (H) 064 224218 ceu@idsc.gov.eg hassanamr@FSUEZ.CO M.EG hassanamr@netscape.net ruahas@rusys.eg.net ruahas@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Egypt</p>	<p>☺</p>	







					
<p>Dr. Alaa Shukrallah, Director</p> <p>Ms. Amal Sabri, Manager, Environment Program (Best time on Monday)</p>	<p>Association for Health and Environmental Development</p>	<p>17 Beirut Street Apt. # 501, 505 Heliopolis Cairo 11341</p> <p>T. 2 02 2565613 F. 2 02 256 5612 ruahed@rusys.eg.net</p> <p>Alaa's Work #: 2 02 305 2680 2 02 303 8132</p>	<p>Egypt</p>	<p>☺ ☺</p>	<p>☒</p>
<p>Mohamed Sami</p>	<p>Center for Development Services and Institute for Environmental Research and Studies (Ain Shams Univ.)</p>	<p>Center for Development Services 4 Ahmed Pasha Street 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Citibank Building Garden City Cairo</p> <p>T. 2 02 355 7558 F. 2 02 354 7278</p> <p>mohamed_s@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Egypt</p>	<p>☺ ☺</p>	<p>☒</p>
<p>Mr. Roger Hardister, Regional Director</p>	<p>Near East Foundation</p>	<p>93 Kasr El Eini Street El Shams Building, Apt. # 7 Cairo</p> <p>T. 2 02 531 6038 2 02 354 4965 2 02 354 4726 F. 2 02 354 8686</p>	<p>Egypt</p>	<p>☺</p>	<p>☒</p>









					
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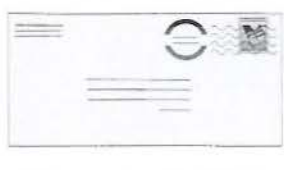



					
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	GreenCOM	www.info.usaid.gov/env ironment/greencom/egy pt.htm	Egypt		









					
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	GreenCOM	<a href="http://www.info.usaid.gov/environment/greencom/lebanon.htm">www.info.usaid.gov/environment/greencom/lebanon.htm</a>	Lebanon		















					
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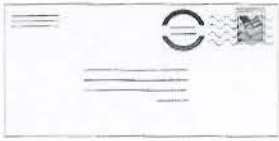











					
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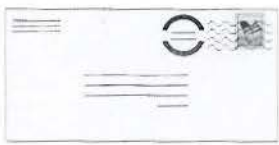



					
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Samira Smairat, Researcher  Volunteer	Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDC)  Jordan Environment Society	HUDC P.O. Box 2110 Amman  T (H) 962 6 488 1002	Jordan	☺ ☺	☒



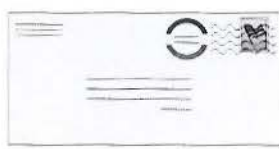



					
Director	Jordan Environment Society	P.O. Box 340636 Amman 11134 Amman  T. 962 6 569 9844 F. 962 6 569 5857 jes@go.com.jo	Jordan		
Dr. Raeda Al Qutob, Director + Chairperson	Family Health Group  Dept. Of Family and Community Medicine, Jordan University	P.O. Box 1073 Marj El Hamam Amman  T/F 962 6 714 889 H. 962 6 541 2635 Mobile: 962 79 24432 fhg@index.com.jo mamah@access.com.jo  Faculty of Medicine P.O.Box 13225 Amman  Fax: 9626- 5356747 Tel 9626- 5355000 X 2393 raeda@ju.edu.jo	Jordan	☺ ☺	☒

					
Dr. Salah Mawajdeh, Chairperson	Dept. Of Family and Community Medicine, Jordan University of Science and Technology	Faculty of Medicine P.O. Box 3030 Jordan University of Science and Technology Irbid.  Tel 962-2-295111 Fax 962-2- 295123 962 2 295010 Mobile 962 79 579036 mawajdeh@just.edu.jo	Jordan	☺ ☺	☒
Ms. Yvonne Klynman, Country Representative	Care International	P.O. Box 5062 Amman 11183  T. 962 6 552 7921 553 3702 F. 962 6 552 7951 care.jordan@firstnet.co m.jo Cameo@go.com.jo	Jordan		














					
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Dr. Volkmar Hasseh	Integrated Pest Management Project (IPM), GTZ	T. 962 6 472 6682 962 6 4726 6013 F. 962 6 4726 683 gtzipm@go.com.jo	Jordan	😊	
	GreenCOM	<a href="http://www.info.usaid.gov/environment/greencom/jordan/globe.htm">www.info.usaid.gov/en vironment/greencom/jord an/globe.htm</a>	Jordan		
Rahma Bourquia, Dean	Faculty of Arts, Mohamed V University	T. (H.) 212 7 710 434	Morocco	😊	

					
Prof. Bachir Raissouni, Dean	School of Science and Engineering, Al Akhawayn University	T. 212 5 862 115 F. 212 5 862 030 B.Raissouni@alakhawayn.ma www.alakhawayn.ma	Morocco	☺	
Yaacoubd Abdel Illah, Prof.	L'Institut National de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquee (INSEA)	Rabat  T. (H.) 212 7 799 832 yaakoubd@insea.ac.ma	Morocco	☺	
Dr. Mohamed Tozy, Docteur d'tat en science politiques (option anthropologie religieuse) Professeur en sciences politiques responsbale de l'unit de formation et de recherche en sciences politiques	la Faculte des sciences economiques , juridiques et sociales de Casablanca	39, Residence Ibn Khaldoun, Sidi Marouf Oulad Haddou Casablanca  T. (H.) 212-2-335469 F. 212-2-983763 tozy@casanet.net.ma	Morocco	☺	☒

					
Dr. Larbi Zagdouni, Directeur  Mohamed Achahboun, Chef de la Division de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Agricole	<i>La Direction de l'Enseignement, de la Recherche et du Développement</i>	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development B.P. 6598 Rabat - Instituts Rabat  T. 212 7 77 47 34 212 7 77 69 24 212 7 77 69 25 212 7 77 64 50 F. 212 7 77 46 67  achahbou@ibnawam.inra.org.ma	Morocco	☺ ☺	☒
Prof. Fouad Guessous, Directeur  Pr. Mostafa Berrada, Secrétaire Général	Institut Agronomique et Veterinaire Hassan II, IAV Direction Développement Rural	B.P. 6202 Rabat - Instituts  T. 212 7 77 09 35 212 7 77 84 68 F. 212 7 77 81 35 212 7 77 58 45	Morocco	☺ ☺	
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	GreenCOM	www.info.usaid.gov/environment/greencom/morocco.htm	Morocco		



					
Mr. Abdelali Laamari, Chef  Dr. Rachid Mrabet, Associate Researcher, INRA Aridoculture Center	Departement de Socio-economie, Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA)	BP 589 INRA-Settat Code 26000  T. 212 3 40 32 10 212 3 40 32 18  inra@settanel.net.ma Laamari_abdelali@hotmail.com	Morocco	😊😊	
	UNDP-Morocco	<a href="http://www.pnud.org.ma/">www.pnud.org.ma/</a>	Morocco		
Mme. El Ayoushi  or  Secretary General	Secrétariat d'Etat Chargé de l'Environnement (8:30-12:00 and 2:30-6:30)	36, Avenue Al-Abtal, Agdal, Rabat  T. 212 7 680 741 212 7 77 27 37 212 7 77 26 34 F. 212 7 77 76 97 212 7 77 37 92	Morocco	😊	
Ms. Zoubida Bourhil		rue Melylia Imm. C.M.R. Escalier F. Apt. # 43 Rabat Hassan  T. 212 7 200 972	Morocco	😊	☒

					
Seteney Shami, Program Director	Social Science Research Council	810 Seventh Avenue New York, NY 10019 U.S.A.  T. 212-377-2700 ext. 512 F. 212-377-2727 shami@ssrc.org	Region		
Prof. Amir Hassan	Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Health Impact Program	Pembroke Place Liverpool L3 5QA  T. 44 151 708 9393 F. 44 151 708 8733 H. 44 151 737 2407	Region		

**Legend:**

☺ = Contacted

☺ ☺ = Responded

☒ = Received an IDRC-Ecohealth Folder/Package

Country/ Inst.	Nature	Response	Research	Training/ Teaching	Inter- discip linary	Comm unity Work	Policy research or work	Particip atory Methods	Gender Analysis	Regional Work
<b>Egypt</b>										
SRC	Univ.	Yes	Y	Y	Y	No	Y	N	Y	N
AHED	NGO	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y
CEDARE	Region al NGO	Yes	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y
EYDE	New NGO	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
EECA	New NGO	Yes	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N
<b>Palestine</b>										
HDIP	NGO	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N
IPCH	Univ.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N
IPCRI	NGO	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N
ARIJ	NGO	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
PHG	NGO	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
<b>Jordan</b>										



Country/ Inst.	Nature	Response	Research	Training/ Teaching	Inter- discip linary	Comm unity Work	Policy research or work	Particip atory Methods	Gender Analysis	Regional Work
RSS	Royal Society	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N
JUST- Med.	Univ.	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N
JUST- Eng.	Univ.	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N
PBWRC	NGO	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
NEF-JO	NGO	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
NEWS	NGO	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
<b>Lebanon</b>										
FHS- AUB	Univ.	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N
MOE-LB	GO	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
UNDP- LB	UN	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
<b>Morocco</b>										
MOAg- MO	GO	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
INRA	GO	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N

<b>Country/ Inst.</b>	<b>Nature</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Research</b>	<b>Training/ Teaching</b>	<b>Inter- discip linary</b>	<b>Comm unity Work</b>	<b>Policy research or work</b>	<b>Particip atory Methods</b>	<b>Gender Analysis</b>	<b>Regional Work</b>
CNRF	GO	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
IAV	GO	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N